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# Home at Last!

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## Home at Last!

BY BRITTANY BELLCHAMBERS

Winter can often drag into depression. After the joyful anticipation of the first snow and the celebration of the Christmas season, the long trek toward spring begins. In southwest Michigan a promise of unpredicted weather haunts us as we find ourselves surviving a four-month cycle of snow, slush and rain. It is in the middle of this unending arctic that I often find myself wondering what summer was like. *Was there really a time when we could stand outside with only shorts and tank tops on? Where we could feel the warmth of the sun while lying on dry, green grass?* In our minds it becomes hard to imagine such a paradise, something so incomprehensible from the contrast that we are experiencing. Winter becomes truth and summer vanishes as a dream.

Emotionally, we often wonder the same—*Can something good really come out of a terrible situation? Is God's hand truly in this? Can things in our life ever emerge from the dreariness and become green again?*

It was late at night my sophomore year in college when this sad reality of life struck me. I was lonely, tired of putting on a happy face and, worse, weary of watching everyone else enjoy the life I had always dreamed I would have. It was in those melancholy moments when I was reminded of Heaven.

As a child, Heaven seems unneeded. Sure, who wouldn't want to see streets of gold or pet a tiger? But in the innocence of childhood there is still so much to dream and so much life still ahead that it is hard to imagine the need for something better. Barbie always marries Ken at the old age of 16, and they live happily ever after—driving their hot pink convertible and taking baths in a tub with real bubbles!

But at age 20, having waved at 16 as I flew by, and still being far from married ... reality

hit hard. Suddenly, Heaven and the need for Jesus seemed vital and somewhat relieving. I remembered those sweet words of Jesus, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). Praise the Lord! He does not call upon the person who is completely happy with the way their life is; His

message is for those who hunger and thirst for something better—something greener. He promises us a hope and a future, peace in troubled times and friendship when we are lonely. This is what I desire: finding my Lord and Savior and allowing Him to become my joy here on earth, so that I can look forward to the hope that can be found only in Him. Oh for that day, when with tears of joy in our eyes we shall all see Heaven and rejoice with the same jubilant cry, "This is where I belong, home at last. Praise God, I am home at last!"



Brittany Bellchambers is a senior elementary education major at Andrews University.